## CLAIMS

1. Method of hydroentangling polymer fibers to manufacture a nonwoven fabric, **characterized in** that the polymer fiber, at the moment of hydroentangling, is imparted a temperature equal to or exceeding the glass transition temperature (Tg) of the polymer fiber and being less than the melting point of the polymer fiber.

2. Method according to Claim 1, **characterized in** that the polymer fiber has an initial modulus ≥ 50 cN/tex, at room temperature.

3. Method according to Claim 1, **characterized in** that the polymer fiber has an initial modulus ≥ 100 cN/tex, at room temperature.

4. Method according to Claim 3, **characterized in** that the polymer fiber has an initial modulus of 100 – 2000 cN/tex, especially 500 – 1500 cN/tex, more particularly 200 – 750 cN/tex, and even more particularly 250 – 600 cN/tex, at room temperature.

5. Method according to one of Claims 1 – 4, **characterized in** that the temperature is achieved with the aid of hot or superheated water.

6. Method according to one of Claims 1 – 4, **characterized in** that the temperature is achieved with the aid of IR-heat.

7. Method according to one of Claims 1 – 4, **characterized in** that the temperature is achieved with the aid of microwaves.

8. Method according to one of Claims 1 – 7, **characterized in** that the polymer fiber has a glass transition temperature (Tg) of ≥ 20°C.

9. Method according to one of Claims 1 – 8, **characterized in** that the polymer fiber has a glass transition temperature (Tg) of 20 - 100°C, especially 50 - 70°C.

10. Method according to one of Claims 1 – 9, **characterized in** that the polymer included in the polymer fibers comprises polyester, polylactic acid , polyamide or polypropylene, or copolymers or mixtures thereof.

11. Hydroentangled nonwoven fabric comprising polymer fibers, **characterized in** that the polymer fibers in the nonwoven fabric have an initial modulus ≥ 50 cN/tex, at room temperature.

12. Nonwoven fabric according to Claim 10, **characterized in** that the polymer fibers in the nonwoven fabric have an initial modulus of 100 – 2000 cN/tex, especially 500 – 1500 cN/tex, more particularly 200 – 750 cN/tex, and even more particularly 250 – 600 cN/tex, at room temperature.

13. Nonwoven fabric according to one of Claims 10 – 11, **characterized in** that the polymer fibers in the nonwoven fabric have a glass transition temperature (Tg) of ≥ 20°C.

14. Nonwoven fabric according to Claim 12, **characterized in** that the polymer fibers in the nonwoven fabric have a glass transition temperature (Tg) of 20 - 100°C, especially 50 - 70°C.

15. Nonwoven fabric according to one of Claims 10 – 13, **characterized in** that the nonwoven fabric has a bulk specific volume of ≥ 8 $cm^3/g$.

16. Nonwoven fabric according to Claim 14, **characterized in** that the nonwoven fabric has a bulk specific volume of 8 – 15 $cm^3/g$, especially 10 – 15 $cm^3/g$.

Sub A1 Cont

17. Nonwoven fabric according to one of Claims 10 – 15, **characterized in t**hat the polymer included in the polymer fibers comprises polyester, polylactic acid , poly-amide or polypropylene, or copolymers or mixtures thereof.

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